

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 and 5 are allowed, and Claims 6-8 stand rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enyedy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,938,949) in view of Hill (U.S. Pat. No. 3,061,709). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-8 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enyedy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,938,949) in view of Naor (U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,430). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that these claims, broadly interpreted, would include a gas control device remotely located, and not in the torch head or handle, and that remote activation of this gas control device would have the effect of increasing gas pressure in the torch head, although there would be a delay. The Office Action also states that the claims are silent as to the preclusion of a delay and that any component could build up pressure within the torch head.

Applicants have amended Claims 6-8 to address these items. More specifically, the method claims have been amended to recite that the step of building up gas pressure is activated locally to the torch head, and not remotely, to reduce a delay in gas pressure build-up. Additionally, these claims have been amended to specifically recite a gas control device, which has a meaning as set forth in the detailed description. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 6-8 in this amended

form are not obvious and thus respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (734) 302-6043.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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